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Period3

History of basketball

The sport Basketball is now the second most widespread sport around the nation. Many people do not realize that basketball isn’t all that special, but if you look in the past you will see that it’s much more than just a sport. It is much more historical than just hall of famers who hold the highest scores or assist or best dunks. Of course basketball had dramatic changes since it was first created by Dr. James Naismith, but it also changed the world’s view of racism. And because society changed, basketball took its leap in skills from college basketball to professional basketball. It may not be a major event in history like War World Two, or the Revolution, but it definitely changed our society and inspired individuals that any can happen.

The First basketball type game may have been played by the early Olmec people of ancient Mexico as early as 500 years go. The Aztec, and Mayan cultures also had a game similar to basketball, only instead of a rubber ball they used the decapitated skulls of their conquered foes. The First true basketball game as we know it was on January 20th, 1892 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Canadian Doctor James Naismith invented the game for the YMCA to play during the winter months. Naismith wrote simple rules for the game, and nailed up two peach baskets for hoops, most of original Naismith rules are still in place today. Some of the rules have changed a bit, and new rules have been added since then, such as in the original game bouncing the ball was prohibited. Of the 13 rules, nine have been modified and kept in the modern game of basketball, the rest have been disregarded. The First game consisted of 18 players, or nine to a team which was standard to the baseball teams of the day. Since Naismith or the YMCA didn’t have the money to design a new ball they used a soccer ball. The concept of the game must have been foreign to the players as the game was played for 30 minutes and the final score was 1-0. Halfway through the game however William R. Chase made the ball go into the peach basket, and thus became the first player to ever score in a basketball game. It was during this game that someone suggested a name for this new sport, Basketball.

Many people have seen the movie “Glory Road”, but a lot do not really notice that this is a real story and it actually changed society and made life easier for certain individuals. "Glory Road" begins in 1965 and quickly follows Don Haskins as he's elevated from a high school girls basketball coach to the leader of the Texas Western Miners. Uncomfortable with his cast of returning players, Haskins travels the country recruiting the best available athletes, in this case, African-American players. He's told that black stars are unwelcome in Southern college basketball, but Haskins is blind to race. He just wants to put together the best team. He's a tough taskmaster, but he has to learn to let his new players do their own thing. In no time, they've become nearly unbeatable, helping to usher college basketball into its modern era. Until that moment, at the height of the civil-rights era, no major-college team had ever started five blacks in an NCAA championship game.

The NBA, it’s the most watched sport around the United States, and it plays a big role in America. The National Basketball League and the Basketball Association of America were responsible for the invention of the NBA. One of the most important names among the members of those two pioneer basketball organizations was Walter A. Brown. In 1946, he was highly influential in establishing the BAA. Likewise, he is one of the individuals credited for merging the BAA and the National Basketball League, which eventually led to the start of the NBA. Aside from the NBA, he was also credited for establishing the Celtics franchise some time in 1945.

As you can see basketball goes way back into the past. Basketball wouldn’t be what is it today if the coach from Texas Western University didn’t take risks to start the first black starting five. We wouldn’t have much of an NBA if it was not created by Walter A. Brown. Basketball wouldn’t even be a sport if it wasn’t for Dr. James Naismith. Its obvious NBA is famous in the World, but it also changed society and made the U.S. a better place.